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USSR SHALE INDUSTRY PROFITS FROM COAL-MINING INNOVATIONS

ESTONIA MODERNIZES SHALE-MINING METHODS -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 16 Aug 51

During the postwar years the Estonian SSR has constructed large shale mines where all the basic processes of shale mining are mechanized. A radical change which occurred in 1949 - 1950 was the conversion from the room method of extraction to the twin-face extraction method. The shale output in 1950 was 1.8 times as great as in 1940.

At present, highly productive cutting machines, modern scraper conveyers, loading machines, and heavy electric locomotives are in operation in Estonian shale mines. The amount of shale mined by heavy cutting machines is now 66.1 percent of the total output, as compared with 23.4 percent in 1949.

The cycle work method has also been widely introduced in shale mines of the Estonian SSR. Miners have pledged to raise the number of mine faces using this method of exploitation to 45 percent of the total.

MINE NO 10 FIRST TO ADOPT CYCLE WORK SCHEDULE -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 27 Sep 51

Workers of Mine No 10 were the first in the Estonian shale basin to adopt the cycle work schedule. Much preparation for converting mine faces to this work method was carried out in July. In August, ten faces were being worked on the cycle schedule, four at Mine No 10, and two each at Kukruse, Kyava-2 and Mine No 6. The norm was fixed at 23 cycles per month, and most of the faces fulfilled or exceeded this norm.

The productivity of the cutting machine at faces which fulfilled their quotas in August was 204 percent of the average productivity for 1950 in the Estonian Combine. The average labor productivity in one section of the Kukruse Mine was 42 percent higher in August than in July, and in one section of Mine No 10 it was 36 percent higher. Labor productivity increased considerably also for other faces operating on the cycle schedule.

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The excellent work of faces on the cycle schedule contributed toward plan fulfillment for the combine as a whole so that the average output was 8 percent higher for August than for July. In view of the August experience, six additional faces have been converted to the cycle work schedule, making a total of 16. Kukruse Mine was the first in the republic to operate on a continuous cycle schedule. The conversion of all mine faces in the Estonslanets Combine to the cycle schedule should be completed in 1952.

YOUNG ESTONIAN SHALE MINE PROGRESSES DESPITE FLAWS -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 28 Sep 51

Mine No 6 of the Estonslanets Combine, a child of the postwar Five-Year Plan, has at its disposal all the most modern USSR techniques and has mechanized all the main mining processes.

During 6 months of 1951 the shale output from Mine No 6 was 250 percent of the output for the same period of 1950. At the same time, labor productivity of the mine has risen 30 percent and the production costs of shale have dropped 35.8 percent. The mine has saved more than 600,000 rubles above plan in 1951. Already the mine is approaching the fulfillment of its planned capacity.

However, there are flaws in organizing the work of the mine on the cycle basis. In August two faces of one section, for example, completed only 19.9 cycles instead of the planned 23. The mine does not have such a shortage of qualified personnel as it did a year and a half ago. Formerly, seven or eight workers were required to move the scraper conveyor to a new place in connection with the advance of the mine face. This work can now be performed by two or three workers.

ESTONIAN SHALE MINES INTRODUCE NEW EQUIPMENT -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 18 May 51

Mines No 10, Kukruse, and Kyava-2, the largest mines in the Estonslanets Combine, will soon be the first in the USSR to put into operation the KT-2 cable car feeder intended to mechanize loading points and manufactured in the Toretzkiy Coal Machine-Building Plant.

SHALE YIELDS INCREASED AMOUNT OF GAS -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 3 Aug 51

The Kokhtla-Yarve Combine, the chief enterprise of Kokhtla-Yarve, exceeded the 6-month plan and increased the amount of gas extracted from a ton of shale.

LENINGRAD SHALE INDUSTRY MECHANIZING -- Leningradskaya Pravda, 26 Aug 51

Practically all phases of the Leningrad shale industry have been mechanized, from the actual cutting of the shale to loading it onto railroad cars. The postwar period has brought a considerable increase in the number of electric locomotives, new rock-loading machines, and conveyers. The mines are provided with daylight lamps and dispatcher service. Nearly all the service operations are mechanized also.

The improvement being achieved by the miners is indicated by the following example: In 1947, Mine No 1 did not complete its quota for shale output and many of the workers did not fulfill their norms. In 1950, the mine exceeded

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the year plan by a considerable amount, and during 1951 the miners are competing to finish the year quota by 7 November. All the workers are fulfilling or exceeding their norms. During the first 7 months of 1951, the shale output for mines of the Leningradslanets Trust showed an increase over 1950, and it is now higher than in prewar 1940.

Section No 2 of Mine No 1 which has been converted to the cycle work schedule shows what possibilities for increased production this work method presents. Before the conversion each mine face advanced on an average of 20 meters per month, and the productivity of a shale worker per shift amounted to 8 tons. Since the conversion the average advance of a mine face is 45 meters per month, and the productivity of the miner is 50 percent above what it was.

Many of the miners have been decorated with order and medals, and a large group has received the title of "Honored Miner." The wages of the miners usually amount to or exceed 3,000 rubles a month.

The Leningrad shale industry can be improved still further by adopting methods to reduce shale losses during exploitation operations, by finding effective means for drying mines, and by improving underground transport and surface operations. By order of the Minister of the Coal Industry, all mines in the USSR are to convert to the cycle work schedule in 1951. Mines of the Leningradslanets Trust have made only a beginning in this direction to date, and much remains to be done.

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